

The man who broadcast the German Surrender in WW2

From Ian Parker

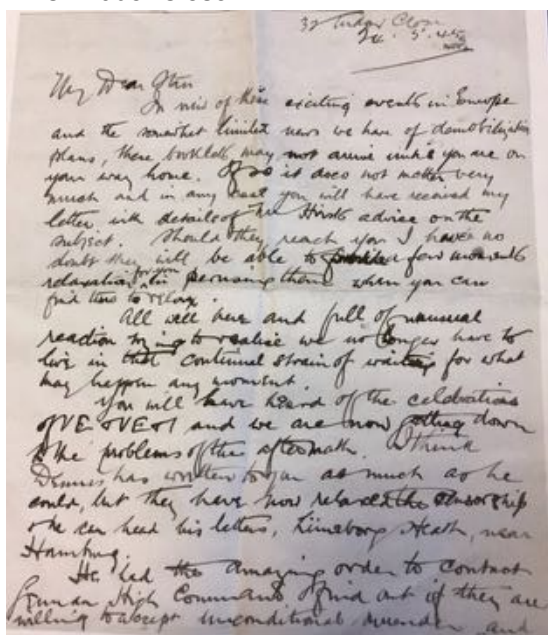
Early last year a Mrs Emmy Goode, from Horsham, bought a couple of second-hand booklets about her hobby of herbalism. Inside one of them was an original hand-written letter which she thought might be of interest. Because Ewell was mentioned in the letter she sent it to Jeremy Harte, Curator of Bourne Hall Museum.

Mrs Goode suggested that the letter covered an interesting piece of military history and hoped some research might uncover more. But, here was the puzzle. The letter was from Jack to Stan, dated 14th May 1945 and was headed 32 Tudor Close; that is all we know of the writer and the recipient. But it was the content of the letter that raised some excitement. Rather than explain why, we have transcribed the letter, as follows:



32 Tudor Close

14.5.45



My Dear Stan
In view of these exciting events in Europe and the somewhat limited news we have of demobilization plans, these booklets may not arrive until you are on your way home. If so it does not matter very much and in any case you will have received my letter with details of Mr Hirst's advice on the subject. Should they reach you I have no doubt they will be able to provide a few moments relaxation for you in perusing them when you can find time to relax.
All well here and full of unusual reaction trying to realise we no longer have to live in that continual strain of waiting for what may happen any moment.
You will have heard of the celebrations of VE & VE+1 and we are now getting down to the problems of the aftermath. I think Dennis has written to you as much as he could, but they have now relaxed the censorship and he can head his letters, Lüneburg Heath, near Hamburg.
He had the amazing order to contact German High Command find out if they are willing to accept unconditional surrender and it was his Sgt. Brown to whom he gave the honour of sending this news home by BBC flash as soon as it was authorised by Monty. Our supreme HQ was not in 'effective' wireless contact consequently all the world was clamouring for information from Monty's HQ & Dennis says his little wireless section have helped to make history.

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We hope to see you soon & are glad to hear you managed a spot of leave with Jacko.

Cheerio

Our love to you

Jack

PS. Patricia (Betsy's sister) is being married on June 5th to a Canadian Airman at Ewell. All is rush & scurry now to help her 'get ready'. He and best man stay here the previous night.

By any measures this is an important historical record and deserved further research, especially if we could trace the family and return a copy of the letter to them. So, the real question is – who is Dennis who had such an important task of communicating the German surrender?

Our first approach was to try and find who had lived at 32 Tudor Close in WW2. There is a Tudor Close in Epsom/Ewell, but it does not go up to no. 32. However, there is also a Tudor Close in Cheam and we found in the 1939 Register a Dennis Haylock living at number 32, aged 19, which means he would be 25 when the letter mentioning a Dennis was written.

1	Haylock John O	- M	27 Nov 90	M	Pharmaceutical Chemist
2	Haylock Kathleen E	- F	3 May 91	M	Unpaid domestic duties
3	Haylock Dennis	- M	29 Jan 20	S	
4	Holling Eric G. F.	- M	21 Oct 90	M	Journalist Editorials

The 1939 Register for the Haylocks at 32 Tudor Close.

A significant point is the partially visible comment following Dennis's entry which seems to read "... 386931 Signalman no 1. . . London Divisional Si. . .". Did this signify Dennis was serving in the army in the Signals Corps? It seems more than likely this might be our man.

Also registered at no. 32 were John Haylock (who could perhaps be nicknamed Jack), born 27 Nov 1890, and Kathleen Haylock, born 3 May 1891- possibly Dennis's mum and dad.

We then searched for his army records and found in the UK, British Army Lists - 1882-1962, that in 1945 Dennis William John Haylock was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Corps of Signals – Regular Army Emergency Commissions and it was noted he was later to be appointed Major.

We also found a fairly extensive and fascinating obituary for Major Haylock at <https://rsars.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/obituary-major-d-w-j-haylock-g3adz.pdf>

Which included the following:

Dennis Haylock joined the army in 1938, we believe as one of the first peacetime conscript militia and was trained as an Operator Signals. His subsequent service is not clear, but it is known that he served in various low-key Phantom Signals units before being commissioned as an officer into the Royal Corps of Signals. The end of Second World War found Capt. Haylock serving as the Signal Officer at Gen. Montgomery's TAC HQ, where he was personally involved in the direct communications between the surrendering German forces and 21st Army Group at Luneburg Heath. (The National HRO Receiver used in these exchanges was donated by Dennis to the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford early in 2003).



Dennis William John Haylock 1920 - 2003

This confirmed that this is the Dennis in Jack's letter to Stan who played such an important part in communicating the German surrender.

Further digging showed that Dennis William John Haylock was born on the 29th January 1920 in Wandsworth, London. He married Frances Pierette Vize in June 1943 in Surrey and he died in Felixstowe on the 6th March 2003, aged 83. Frances Vize was born in Rochford Essex on the 20th October 1919 and died in February 2005, aged 85. They are both buried in the Town Municipal cemetery in Felixstowe.

The next stage of our research is to try and trace the living descendants of Dennis and Frances so that we can let them know about the letter and return a copy to them. We know from Dennis's obituary that his Requiem Funeral Mass at St Felix Church, Felixstowe on the 20th March was attended by a 50-strong congregation including 10 members of his immediate family including his two daughters and grandchildren. That provides a fine basis for further investigating.

With regard to the P.S. in Jack's letter about 'Patricia (Betsy's sister) marrying a Canadian Airman at Ewell on June 5th', we think this is Frances's sister. Patricia A Vize was born in 1923 in Croydon. Her mother has the same maiden name – White – as Frances. In 1939 Patricia is registered as living in Boulters lane, Banstead.

She married Graham L Simon in June 1945 in Ewell. In 1968 Graham L Simon and Patricia Simon are recorded as living in Esquimalt, Saanich, British Columbia, Canada. We have yet to identify Betsy.

More next time . . .

Epsom & Ewell History Explorer website has a New Address . . .

www.EEHE.org.uk

From Peter Reed

The website has changed, and I want to explain why. The website was designed 14 years ago, and it has out-grown all of my wildest dreams. Each of the 1200+ pages have been coded by hand using old school Hypertext Mark-up Language (html). The version of html used so far is now becoming obsolete and something has to be done to keep the valuable local resource that you have helped provide available for future generations.

I could have looked at the site page by page to identify what needs to be changed to bring it up to current standards, but it will take year or more and I doubt that the underlying html system be around for much longer. Since 2006 various technical advances have occurred and users are now more likely to use their mobiles to access the website than a desktop computer. And with no obvious IT savvy successor to hand, action is needed now.

Getting techy for a moment, I have moved the current website pages to a modern Content Management System (CMS) using WordPress as it is the most widely used in the world and is likely to be around and maintained for many years to come. It will allow for the text and images to be displayed to best advantage no matter what size /type of device a user has (mobile, laptop, tablet to etc) without me having to produce multiple versions of the same page.

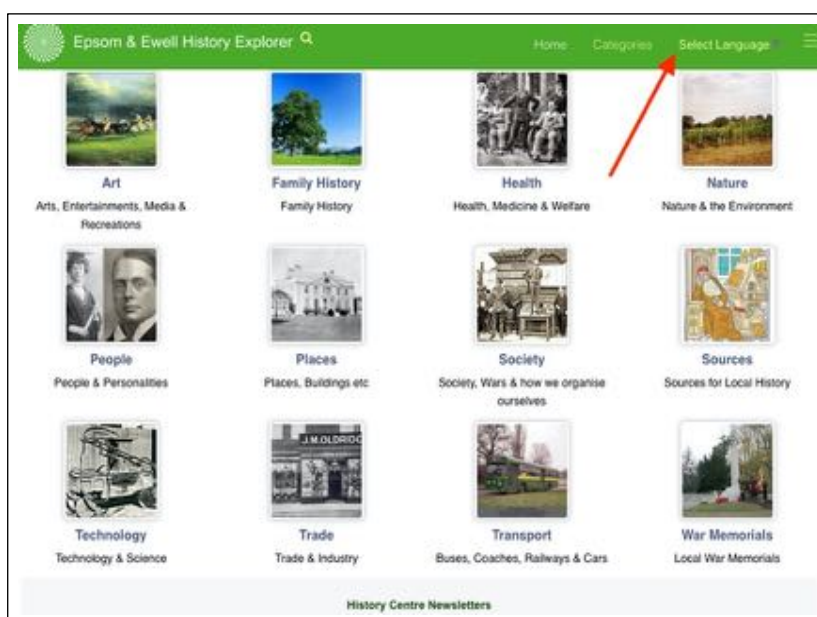
Another benefit will be that authorised users can add or amend pages using a simple page editor without my intervention. The indexation of the site should also be very much quicker and better. The system as a whole would be much more easily managed by my replacement who would not need particularly high IT skills. The overall look of the site will inevitably change but the vast majority of pages will still have the same text etc.

. . . and Goes Global with 103 Languages

And one exceptional benefit is that, thanks to Google translate, the new website is now available in multitude of languages from Albanian to Zulu.

Just go to www.EEHE.org.uk click on 'Select Language' in the top right-hand corner and make your choice.

I know change is unsettling, but it is for the good of the website and I welcome any support you can give me and thank you for all the work you have done so far.



The website continues to grow and develop. To see the latest changes and additions please refer to <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=61076> – Ed.

‘A Visitation of God’ - answered

From Bert Barnhurst

In the May 2019 issue of ‘Lives & Times’ (no.47) we posed a question for you to puzzle over regarding an unusual entry on a death certificate of 1868. The phrase in question was on a death certificate for a Mary Barnhurst, a single lady, a music seller in Birmingham.

Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered
Mary Barnhurst	female	79 years	Cellistic Seller	Congestive Apoplexy By visitation of God 11 days	Information received from John Battlemas Coroner for the Borough of Birmingham Inquest held 24 May 1868	North May 1868

The cause of death was shown as ‘Congestive Apoplexy’ but under this was the statement ‘By visitation of God 11 days’. This was affirmed by the Birmingham Coroner, so I assumed, from his vast experience, he knew something that we have all puzzled about at some time or other. We asked if any of our readers had seen this cause of death before..

I’m delighted to say we had a response from Brian Bouchard, a regular contributor to our website, who pointed us to the following website: https://historyhouse.co.uk/articles/visitation_of_god.html

This explained that . . . “for centuries, doctors struggled in the darkness over the causes of disease and death, and how the human body functioned. If a person died, because of the doctor’s limited knowledge they could only describe the cause of death as a fever, apoplexy, or convulsions, or what he could visibly see such as a head wound, or evidence of a lifestyle such as over-indulgence of drink.

Occasionally he would describe the cause of death as a ‘Visitation of God’ – or, in Latin, ‘*ex visitacone dei*’, which was often used in a more religious time than ours. It meant the death was inexplicable and it was thought that God had decided that it was time for the person to die.

It later came to mean that the person died of natural causes. It was a verdict often given by Coroner’s juries, particularly in the 19th century. It was very rare that any autopsy was held and a doctor would give his opinion from the physical evidence of the body before him and the accounts he heard from others of the health of the deceased.”

Brian added that an indication that the medical profession does not know everything all the time was evidenced by once having seen a patient’s notes with ‘G O K’ written on them; on further investigation he was told it stood for ‘God Only Knows’. He is pleased to say that that patient recovered.

After 100 years our WW1 Records and Displays still reverberate

. . . At last we have his Great War medals

From: Nick Forder, RAF Upper Heyford Heritage Manager

To: EpsomandEwellLHC

I’ve just read your January 2011 Newsletter about cleaning the grave of Harry Arderne Shoults White who was drowned when RFA Thrush foundered off the coast of Ireland on 11th April 1917 (aged 29).

I thought you might be interested to know that I have acquired his Great War medals and can send you an image of them, if you are interested?



To which Clive Gilbert replied: Thank you for your kind offer of an image of Harry’s medals, and yes please.

Harry Arderne Shoults White was a senior motor engineer and was only 29 when he died. More about him and his medals can be found at <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=40930#WhiteHAS>

. . . A life not forgotten

From Tanya Gutierrez

To: Clive Gilbert

I was researching my great great uncle and (my grandmother's uncle) Isaac Newton Mason. I then discovered through my research on Google you had previously done a write up on him where I discovered he died on the 7th October 1916 aged 17 during WW1 in France and his body was not recovered, as it states he is on the memorial to the missing.

His regiment was 1st/15th Battalion London Regiment (Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles) original number 7034, although this got changed to 533675 in 1917.

I wondered how you came about this information and if you know anything else or where I can find additional information? Any help would be most welcome

To which Clive replied:

Hi Tanya

I have added more to Isaac's website entry,

see <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=40920#MasonI>

All the information comes from publicly available records. The Commonwealth War Graves

Commission (CWGC) is the start point to obtain basic details. The Ancestry (paid for) website has medal cards, medal rolls, soldiers' effects, service

records, war diaries and census records. Divisional and regimental books might also be available. The web site 'The Long Long Trail' ([The Long, Long Trail – Researching soldiers of the British Army in the Great War of 1914-1919](#)) is a very good site for Great War history.

I doubt that any more information about Isaac will be found, but I would be delighted if you prove me wrong!



*Isaac's inscription on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing
Image courtesy of Clive Gilbert © 2012*

To which Tanya responded:

Dear Clive,

Thank you so much for the write up. I'm so glad that his life is not forgotten, and I can pass his story onto the family.

. . . WW1 displayed at Nescot College

Last November Graeme Hodge, the NESBOT librarian, contacted Clive Gilbert about a display on WW1 at Nescot college to enlighten students about the Great War on the 100th anniversary of its ending. Clive Gilbert offered all 61 displays that the Epsom & Ewell Local History Centre had produced to commemorate the anniversary and the college displayed 28 of them which led to the following from: Graeme Hodge:

"The display was very well received. We printed off 28 sheets and displayed them in the Skills Park Reception."

A Sporting Carriage to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

By Ian Parker

In the May 2019 issue of 'Lives & Times' we reported that we had received an enquiry from Kim Cady, Assistant Curator of the Car and Carriage Museum at The Frick Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania –

www.thefrickpittsburgh.org. She was opening an exhibition in June 2019 entitled *The Hunt for a Seat: Sporting Carriages in the early 20th Century*. Kim had spotted some images from the *Last London to Brighton Coach 1914* feature in our History Explorer website and asked if she could use them in the exhibition.



Part of one of the displays at the Frick Museum

Regrettably, for technical reasons we were unable to provide the image to her specification. However, we were able to supply a series of images from an album of Alfred G Vanderbilt photos of the period, supplied by Jeremy Harte, curator of Bourne Hall Museum.

The exhibition was open from June 1st until November 3rd, 2019. Kim used one of our images on a text panel and credited Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre. She also used some other images in a couple of talks she gave on 'The Sport of Coaching'.

Leisure was a performance, and the thing performed was class.
T. J. Clark, art historian, 1984.

The carriage era lasted only a little more than 300 years, from the 1600s to early 1900s, for much of that time only the wealthy could afford to buy and maintain their own vehicles. Sporting carriages are a practical and informal class of owner driven carriages that were used for a variety of purposes—a day out shooting, pleasure rides, or a day at the races. This informal nature allowed for more fun and leniency in turn-out—a less elaborate finish than those applied to formal carriages. The relaxed characteristics include varnished natural wood or brightly painted carriages, Bedford cord upholstery, and russet leather harness. Grooms accompanying the carriage were dressed in stable livery—a dark coat and breeches, dark boots, black derby hat, and brown leather gloves.

Since sporting carriages often traveled quite a distance for recreation, the horse selected was typically of substantial size, with a willingness to cover the ground, and well mannered. Pairs or multiples needed to be well matched in size, movement, and color. The harness was heavy enough for the work of the carriage and matched to the leather and metal of the carriage. For example, carriages with natural finishes and trimmed with russet leather should be harnessed with russet leather and brass.



LEAVING THE HOTEL VICTORIA.
Leaving the Hotel Victoria, Collection of Alfred G. Vanderbilt, c. 1900. Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre.

The text panel featuring a photograph supplied by and credited to the History Centre.

Kim informed us that by the end of August 'The Hunt for a Seat: Sporting Carriages in the early 20th Century' exhibition had attracted over 10,000 visitors, excluding school groups. We will contact Kim to ask for an update on these figures.

'Last London to Brighton Coach 1914' can be found at <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=29064>

What is going on here? Is it Real rather than Clay Pigeon Shooting?

Angela Clifford was browsing through 19th Century newspapers seeking articles about Epsom Downs and came across the following report from the Sporting Life, dated 15th December 1881. It shines an interesting if slightly disconcerting light on organised shoots on the Downs – *we have had to transcribe the article as it is too blurry and faded to reproduce here; the image was not part of the newspaper article* – Ed.

Epsom Downs Hotel, Epsom Downs

Messrs. Mitchell and Margett, the proprietors of this hotel, which is better known as the



"Rubbing House", have opened an extensive shooting enclosure, yesterday (Wednesday) being the third meeting, when a large programme was announced. The attendance was good, although not so numerous as anticipated, considering the fine afternoon. Shooting started at one o'clock with half-sovereign trial sweepstakes. Mr. Graham (29 yards) was successful in the first two by grassing three in each; Mr Perkins (27) secured the next; the fourth was shared by Messrs. Baxter (26) and Harp (26). Then came the contest for the handsome silver cup, given free by the proprietors to be shot for by trainers and jockeys only, in a handicap at 5 pigeons each, for which just a dozen entries were forthcoming. At the fifth round a tie was declared between Messrs. F. Adams (25), F. Fox (22), R. Anson (22),

and T. Sherwood (21), each stopping four. In shooting off, bird for bird, F. Adams (23) proved the winner, killing in all six out of seven, and was much congratulated by his fellow-competitors and friends. The next item was the Epsom Derby Cup, which did not fill, and consequently a series of sweepstakes were shot. Mr. Perkins (27) secured the first, Messrs. Ham (26) and Thornton (26) divided the next, and the last-named also divided the third with Mr. Baxter (26). The concluding sweepstakes with the jockeys and trainers was won by J. Adams (23) scoring three out of five. A. Holledge was handicapper and referee, in the absence of Mr. E. Smith. James Hammond, of 218 Great Dover-street, supplied the birds.

Appended is the score of the cup:

Yds. Rise			Yds. Rise		
25	Mr. F. Adams	1 0 1 1 1 – 1 1	22	Mr. R. Anson	1 1 1 1 0 – 1 0
22	Mr. F. Fox	1 1 0 1 1 – 1 0	21	Mr. T. Sherwood	1 1 1 1 0 – 0
20	Mr. E Page	0 1 1 1 0	22	Mr. J. Martin	0 1 1 0
23	Mr. J. Adams	0 1 0	21	Mr. A. May	0 0 1
22	Mr. W. Reeves	0 1 0	22	Mr. J. Chandler	0 1 0
20	Mr. R. Wyatt	0 0 0	21	Mr. G Masterman	0 0 0

Looking at the scores, lucky the birds facing Messrs Wyatt and Masterman – they missed!

Image: 'Pigeon Shoot' watercolour signed J.Compton c.1890 – Loveantiques.com

Lots of reports found, but not exactly what was requested

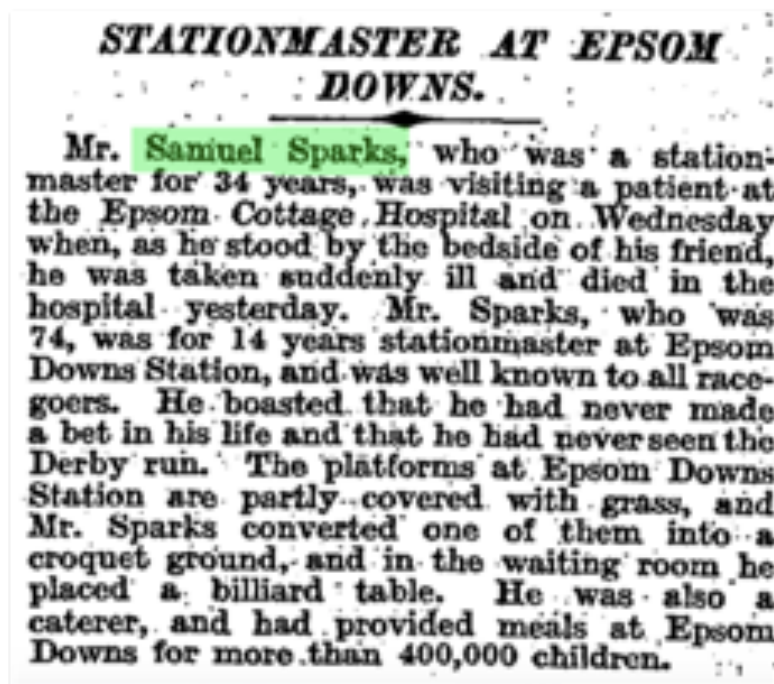
From David Sparks To Epsom and Ewell LHC
Re: Robert Samuel Sparks

I'd like to obtain a reprint of a newspaper article that may be in your archives. Our current photocopy is very hard to read in places. Unfortunately, I don't have the newspaper name, but I do have a date: 7th January 1927. The article is about the death of my great great grandfather, Mr. Robert Samuel Sparks. The title of the article is: Death of Mr. S. Sparks. Fatal illness at hospital. Ex-Stationmaster and Royalty Interesting experiences. Are you able to help us track down the newspaper and maybe obtain a reprint? Maybe it was the Epsom & Ewell Advertiser>

After a thorough search of the Epsom Advertiser newspaper microfilm archives and trawling the web for other newspaper archives we responded to David Sparks as follows:

From Ian Parker
Regrettably we can find no report in the local Epsom & Ewell Advertiser about the death of your great great grandfather Robert Samuel Sparks, which is surprising when you consider the other widespread reports we uncovered.

The most detailed was in the London Times dated 7th January 1927. What we find intriguing about this remarkable gentleman is that he had converted part of Epsom Downs station into a croquet lawn and a billiard room (did this mean the station was not very busy?); even more remarkable is his feeding of the 400,000 children. Other reports featured in newspapers from across the country including the Belfast Newsletter, Chard & Ilminster



The London Times, 7th January 1927

News, Nottingham Journal, Western Daily Press, Western Morning News and the Yorkshire Evening Post. I have attached copies of all these reports. Please excuse the quality but they are as reproduced from the on-line newspaper database, which can be accessed through Surrey Libraries, if you have a library card and a password. In addition, we found further brief mentions -one or two lines - of Samuel Sparks and his death or funeral in Norwood News, Sheffield Independent and the Shepton Mallet Journal. I hope this has been helpful.

To which David Sparks replied:

Thank you very much for your hard work. I wasn't expecting such results and although we still don't know the original newspaper I was querying (with the rather large article) we have gained a couple more facts from your research.

The station wasn't busy. It was built to cope with the huge derby crowds (and the royal carriage and the king), but the rest of the time it was a quiet station with more space and facilities than were needed on a day to day basis. 400,000 children! Good grief.

He also (according to our large newspaper reprint) prevented the Cheam Cricket Club from a premature financial demise (by taking control of finances as hon secretary) and was hon. secretary of the Cheam Flower Show from its inception for several years. And he obtained Cheam's first streetlamp. And he ran a small fair by the station.

One more strange fact – on the day of the newspaper reports, but 64 years later, his great great great grandson was born.

The Mystery of the White Hart and the Ashbury Club

From Hazel Ballan

On the usual quest for knowledge, assuming some one of our readers will know, I posted this image on the 'Epsom, Ewell, Cheam, Memories, Local History and Genealogy Facebook Group' page.



*The White Hart Hotel, 91 High Street, Epsom
Current location would be between Prêt à Manger and the Metro Bank*

The image came from a postcard in the Surrey History Centre and was postmarked June 1906. It showed The White Hart Hotel and was overprinted with a caption "Ashbury Club Headquarters"

It raises two questions that we have yet to find an answer to: What was the Ashbury Club, and what was its Headquarters doing in The White Hart Hotel in the High Street?

If anyone knows the answer to these questions, please contact us at EpsomandEwellhc@yahoo.co.uk

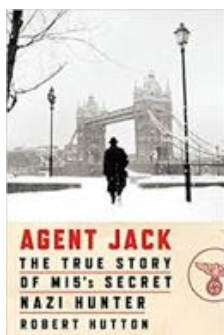
We thought you would like some background on the White Hart, as it might jog a few memories. An inn sign for the pub appears in a sketch in 1813 and it continued business in a small way until the end of the 19th century, when it was redeveloped as an hotel. There were four bedrooms and stabling for six horses; the hotel made the most of its corner site with a bay window facing onto the High Street. The White Hart was one of eight pubs named by Victorian 'worthies' as proof that Epsom was well supplied with liquor, so that a drinks licence at the station 'may be a great nuisance' and 'is not unlikely to promote drunkenness among the officials. In later years Johnny Haynes, captain of England and Fulham FC, and the first footballer to be paid £100 a week, used the White Hart as his local. It was finally shut down in the 1980s; a Victorian statue of a white stag, added to the front sometime in the 20th century, is now in Bourne Hall Museum.

From 'The Warmest Welcome – Hotels and Hostelries in Epsom & Ewell 1869-2011' by Carol Hill.

Agent Jack

The True Story of MI5's Secret Nazi Hunter by Robert Hutton.

From Angela Clifford



Quite by chance I picked up this library book and was intrigued to discover the 'Nazi Hunter' of the title had lived in Epsom.

Agent Jack was, in fact, Eric Roberts and I wanted to discover more about this local, unsung, hero. The book mentions that he was a Bank Employee – my starting point!

Through the 1939 records on Find my Past, I found the family at 17 Tattenham Grove. Eric's occupation was 'Bank Cashier, Westminster Bank Ltd.' This site also gave me his date of birth and that of his wife – Alice. The book referred to her as Audrey Sprague. Had I got the right family?



Eric Roberts – Agent Jack

Using the Government General Record Office (GRO) site I could find his details – fortunately for me there was only one Eric Roberts - born Lewes in 1907. His mother's maiden name was Green, but I have not traced his mother's family.

Next, to genealogy website Free BMD – who did he marry? Was it an Audrey? In 1934, Eric A Roberts (Eric Arthur was the name in the GRO record) married Alice Sprague in Willesden. Still no mention of Audrey - drat! Back to the GRO site for her birth details – once again, taken from the 1939 record – yes! There she is! Alice Lilian Audrey Sprague born in Chorlton in 1900, mother's maiden name – Riley. Hooray!

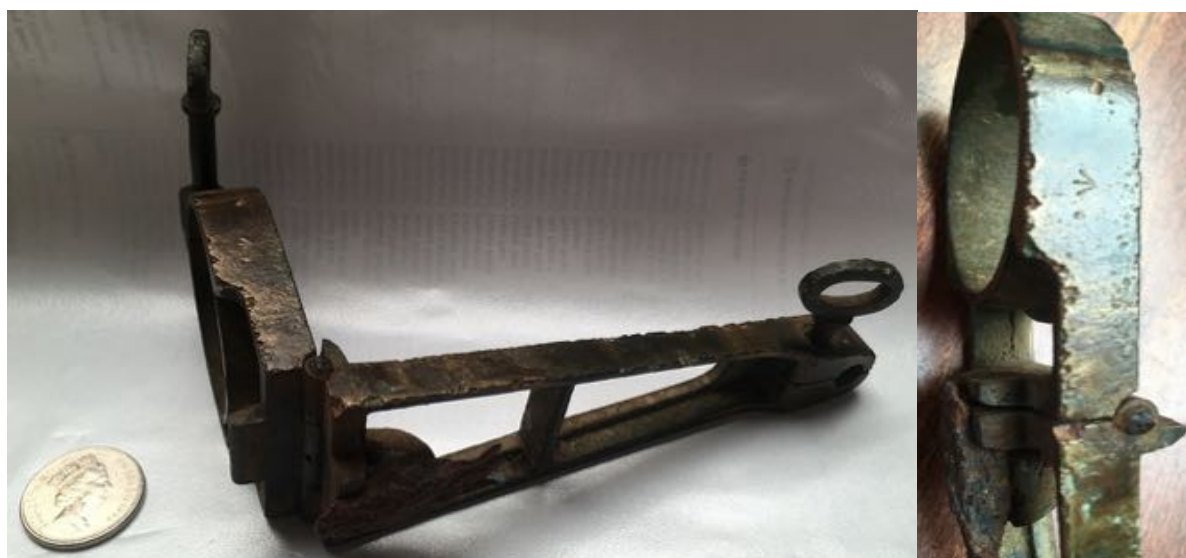
This man endangered himself, and possibly his family, because as an MI5 agent, he worked undercover -purportedly a Nazi who hated the English and wanted to help Germany win WWII. Several times he felt in danger of being unmasked but carried on regardless. He persuaded many genuine Nazis that he would send their reports of Military Establishments and factories making aircraft parts or similarly useful ironmongery direct to Germany so the Luftwaffe could target them. In fact, he told MI5 where there were potentially damaging leaks of information.

I am not going to tell his full, fascinating story here, you need to read the book, but it reminded me that 'service' was not always visible – and certainly is not today!

Any Ideas What This Is?

By Bert Barnhurst

A friend of a cousin found this piece of equipment on Reigate Heath. It's not very large, as you can see by the 10p coin, and it's made of brass and has a right-angled fold. The large hole is 1¾ inches across and there is what looks like a Ministry stamp – the arrow - on one of the arms.



I have shown this to a number of people, all of whom found it a puzzle and none of whom had any idea what it is. Suggestions include part of an aircraft, based on the fact that an American B-17 was known to have crashed on Reigate Heath during the 2nd World War. But, if that is the case, why has it got a British military stamp on it? Is it part of some army equipment? I've contacted RAF Hendon who have ruled out that it could be any part of an aircraft – much to my cousin's friend's regret since he likes collecting aircraft parts.

It's a puzzle and if anyone can throw any light on what it is, please let us know at EpsomandEwellhlc@yahoo.co.uk

You can learn more about the B-17 crash on Reigate Hill at
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/reigate-hill-and-gatton-park/features/b17-plane-crash-on-reigate-hill-->

Norton or Horton – A Question of Transcription

By Hazel Ballan

In the February 2017 issue of 'Lives & Times' (No. 42), we asked if anyone could name this house that we felt had been wrongly transcribed as 'Norton House' for which we could find no reference.

It was one of a sheet of six photographs that Peter Reed had discovered in the fireproof store. The other five have been identified: Epsom College, Epsom SWR Rail Station, Epsom National School and two of Epsom High Street.

Hazel Ballan uploaded this photograph on the 'Epsom, Ewell, Cheam Memories, Local History and Genealogy' Facebook page. Her question was "Can anyone remember that as you turn from Horton Lane into what is now Oakwood Avenue if the big house on the right was rebuilt in the same style as the previous building? Was the original house called Horton House?"



This brought forth the following response from John Beagley "That House was the house the chaplain of Long Grove Hospital lived in as there was a Church next to it, as I remember. The Church was demolished in early Eighties as it became unsafe and was subsiding due to roots of large Pine trees getting under the foundations over many years with large cracks forming in the structure.

"It was shored up with wooden shores, but it became too expensive to save and the Church as was demolished. I knew the Chaplin and his family who were there in Seventies as I was friends with his children back then. They were the Woods family. The Rev Woods left to become vicar of the church that is in Ruxley Lane near Epsom and Ewell High School."

So, we still don't have definite confirmation it was called Horton House, but at least we know a bit more. Neither can we find any reference to Horton or Norton House in the 1939 England Register or in the Electoral Rolls – Ed.

. . . And here's another one

In the May issue of 'Lives & Times' (no. 47) we showed a picture of a house that Peter Reed had uncovered from the 'History World' website. It was described as a *House at Epsom, Surrey* and the architect was *Charles Whitby, FRIBA*. It has since been destroyed to be replaced by an office building at the rear of The Ashley Centre on the one-way system. We asked if any of our readers could tell us more about this building.

We received the following response from Brian Bouchard: "In an idle moment between other things, I find Charles Whitby's property was called Quince Cottage and was reviewed in *Homes and Gardens* 1930. He died on the 17th



November 1953, aged 69, and was interred in Epsom Cemetery, Plot N285. Mrs. N Whitby was at Quince Cottage until circa 1970.”

Homes and Gardens is listed in Google Books but has not been digitised. However, it does give a brief summary, as follows:

“Quince Cottage Epsom is a small house at Epsom, which the architect (Mr. *Charles Whitby*, FRIBA.) has designed for his own occupation. Its name is taken appropriately from the old quince tree which is seen in the ...

“The plan of this cottage was influenced by a delightful view of old Epsom to the north and vacant sites (with the possibility of the usual suburban “desirable residences” being built thereon) on either side and in front. Two views of the exterior are given on page 191, and two interior views, with the plans, below. The materials are all of the simplest: 11in. hollow brick walls covered with creamy slurry outside ...”

Regrettably, that is all we can see without purchasing the magazine. Thank you Brian – Ed.

Source:

https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=z1McAQAAAJ&q=%22Quince+Cottage%22+%2B+Epsom&dq=%22Quince+Cottage%22+%2B+Epsom&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiM4vm_m7niAhXNUxUIHQYTBacQ6AEIKDAA

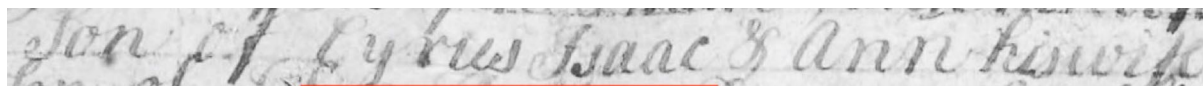
More about Transcriptions

By Elaine Parker

I was recently on the Ancestry.co.uk website rummaging around on the hunt for my paternal 7x Great Grandfather. I had the surname and knew that other family members were living in and around Bristol and Gloucester in the first half of the 1700s – so it shouldn’t be too hard, but I always start by thinking that!

The first name might be John – lots of Johns in that line – or maybe Cyrus – the one and only in the family. After a while of throwing names into the machine and getting no reasonable returns I was getting exasperated.

Then an oddity came up on the transcribed record of the ‘Gloucestershire Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538-1813’. It was the name ‘Lyrew Isaac’.



Lyrew? On checking the original document, it clearly said ‘... John, son of Cyrus Isaac and Ann his wife ...’

Professional genealogists advise us to take care with transcriptions, and with good reason. Despite the frustration and time spent on the research it all ended happily with a welcome ‘Hello’ to my newly found ancestors, a smug smile, a cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit.

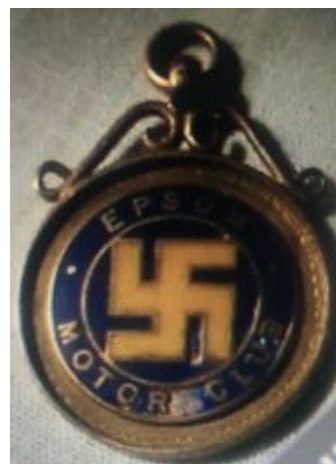
The ‘well-being’ of Epsom Motor Club 1924

From Peter Reed

I came across this Epsom Motor Club badge c. 1924 on sale on eBay which features an interesting symbol.

However, it must be remembered that this symbol goes back thousands of years and has been used as a symbol of good fortune in almost every culture in the world. In the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit, swastika means “well-being”. The symbol has been used by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains for millennia and is commonly assumed to be an Indian sign. Early Western travellers to Asia were inspired by its positive and ancient associations and started using it back home. By the beginning of the 20th Century there was a huge fad for the swastika as a benign good luck symbol. And it was enthusiastically adopted in the West as an architectural motif, on advertising and product design.

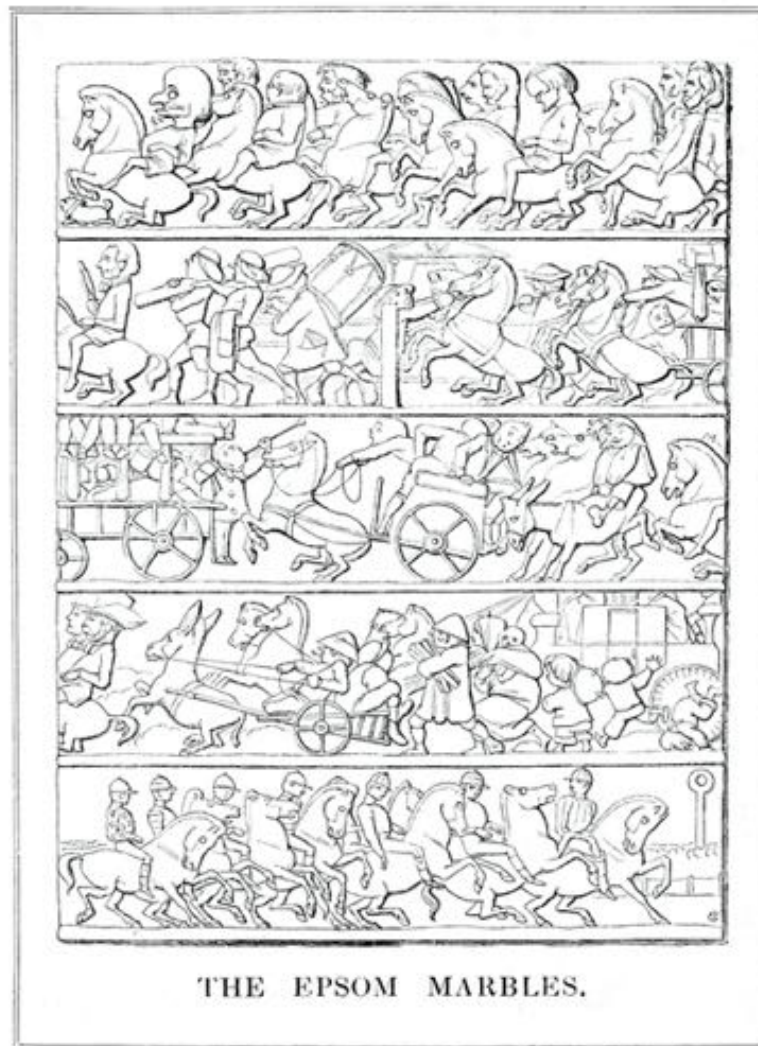
Regrettably, its use as a Nazi symbol in the 1930s means this ancient sign can probably never ever shake off its evil associations.



The Elgin Marbles - spoofed!

Peter Reed

I came across this image on the web from Punch Magazine, 29th May 1852 and thought it might amuse.



It is by Sir John Tenniel (1820-1914) the illustrator and satirical artist, especially known for his illustrations for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865) and Through the Looking-Glass (1872) as well as for his work in Punch. It is a wood engraving and is a spoof on the famous Elgin Marbles (below) held in the British Museum.



Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of 'Lives & Times'. Thanks to all those who have provided information, anecdotes, stories and pictures – Hazel Ballan, Bert Barnhurst, Brian Bouchard, Angela Clifford, Clive Gilbert, Jeremy Harte, Elaine Parker and Peter Reed, oh! and me. But, to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again – Have you got news for me, please?

I'm sure many more of you have experiences, contacts with enquirers or local or family history information that would interest us all, so let's have them - you can see from this current issue, we like gossip and comments as much as more serious subjects. So, please don't be shy. If you have any

- reports on visits to various sites or centres
- intriguing Information Requests
- forthcoming projects or events
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- or just strange tales to tell

please let me know. Supporting photographs and pictures, if available, would be most welcome as it will make it all the more interesting for us all.

Items are welcome from all sources – volunteers, friends and readers of 'Lives & Times' wherever you are in the world.

The next publication date will probably be around mid-year, as long as our contributors keep providing material, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

Ian Parker – February 2020

Researching Local History or Tracing your Ancestors?

If you are interested in the history of Epsom and Ewell or want to trace your family's history then visit us at the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre located in Ewell Library at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell.

Opening Hours

The History Centre is open and staffed by volunteers at the following times

Tuesdays	10.00 am – 12 noon
Thursdays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Fridays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
1 st Saturday of the month	10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Other Saturdays	By prior appointment

Enquiries can also be made by email to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

Take a look at our History Explorer Website www.eehe.org.uk

Epsom and Ewell History Explorer has numerous items of local interest including personalities, places, properties, and personal reminiscences of life in bygone times and notable events. There is also an extensive and searchable collection of local birth, christening, marriage, death records, cemetery burials, gravestone inscriptions, detailed Workhouse records and WW1 and WW2 memorials with numerous stories of those remembered. It is a fascinating and continually growing source of information.

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